

1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second physician, ~~the consultation being conducted through an intermediary, the intermediary being connected by a telecommunications system to both the first and second physicians, and~~

the method comprising the steps performed in ~~the~~ an intermediary which is coupled by a telecommunications system to both the first and second physicians -of:

arranging and conducting the consultation via the telecommunications system under supervision of a medical information specialist in the intermediary who is neither the first nor the second physician;

\_\_\_\_\_receiving a comment made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications system from the second physician in the intermediary; and

providing the comment to a ~~the medical information specialist in the intermediary who is neither the first nor the second physician, the intermediary being empowered to certify that the first physician is entitled to continuing medical education credit and the medical information specialist evaluating the consultation represented by the comment to determining~~ determine whether any continuing medical education credit is to result from the first physician is entitled to continuing medical education credit on the basis of the consultation represented by the comment and if continuing medical education credit is to result the first physician is entitled, recording the resulting certifying that the first physician is entitled to the continuing medical education credit in a database accessible from the intermediary and otherwise not so certifying.

2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps performed in the intermediary under supervision of the medical information specialist of:

retrieving instructional material relevant to the comment and the consultation from the data base and

providing the instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

~~the step of retrieving instructional material being performed by the medical information specialist.~~

3. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps performed in the intermediary under supervision of the medical information specialist of:

providing an examination based on at least the instructional material via the telecommunications system;

receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system; and

grading the received answers,

~~the continuing medical education credit resulting from the consultation if the first physician~~  
being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the examination.

1     **4.** (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set  
2     forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps performed in the  
3     intermediary under supervision of the medical information specialist of:

4             providing an examination based on at least the comment to the first physician via the  
5     telecommunications system;

6             receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the  
7     telecommunications system; and

8             grading the received answers,

9     ~~the continuing medical education credit resulting from the consultation if the first physician~~  
10    being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the examination.